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Commission on Population and Development

Report on the forty-eighth session (11 April 2014 and 13-17 April 2015)

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Note

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

Summary

The forty-eighth session of the Commission on Population and Development was held at United Nations Headquarters on 11 April 2014 and from 13 to 17 April 2015. Its special theme was "Realizing the future we want: integrating population issues into sustainable development, including in the post-2015 development agenda".

The Commission considered the report of the Bureau of the Commission on Population and Development on its intersessional meetings (E/CN.9/2015/2), which detailed the work of the Bureau in organizing the session.

The Commission considered three reports of the Secretary-General on the special theme of the session. The first, the report of the Secretary-General on integrating population issues into sustainable development, including in the post-2015 development agenda (E/CN.9/2015/3), provides an overview of the demographic changes that are projected to occur over the next 15 years and discusses their implications for efforts to achieve sustainable development. The report shows that the greatest and most fundamental challenge is to adjust to a world population of 8.4 billion people eager to achieve higher standards of living, while minimizing the negative impact of human activity on the environment. With the exception of Europe, where the total population is projected to decrease slightly, all other major regions are projected to grow by at least 10 per cent over the next 15 years. The fastest population growth is projected to occur in low- and lower-income countries, making it harder for governments in those countries to eradicate poverty and inequality, combat hunger and malnutrition, strengthen the coverage and quality of education and health systems, and improve access to basic services. While the population in low- and lower-middle-income countries is projected to grow, the population of 29 countries, 21 of which are located in Europe, is expected to decline. Below-replacement fertility, sometimes combined with emigration, will result in rapid growth of the proportion of persons over age 60, raising concerns about the fiscal sustainability of existing social protection programmes.

The report of the Secretary-General also identifies specific population trends over the next 15 years that present particular challenges for Member States and the international community. For example, it is projected that an additional 2.1 billion babies will be born worldwide, with the majority being born in Africa and Asia. An increasing number of births poses particular challenges for low-income countries, where rates of poverty and malnutrition are already high, levels of education are low, health-care systems are weak and rates of infant and child mortality are high. In addition, about 2 billion children are projected to reach school age, and about 1.9 billion young people will turn 15 years old. Although substantial progress has been made towards universal primary education over the past 15 years, efforts must be scaled up just to maintain current levels of school enrolment. In addition, the number of women of reproductive age is projected to increase in all areas of the world, except in Europe. The report emphasizes that achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women will require eliminating all forms of violence and discrimination against women, promoting female education, and ensuring that women have access to safe and effective means of family planning, as well as ensuring women's equal access to the labour market, social security and political process.

The report also highlights that older persons, aged 60 or over, are now the world's fastest growing age group and will make up an increasing proportion of the

global population. In addition, all of the projected 1.1 billion increase in global population over the next 15 years will take place in urban areas. Responding to rapid urban growth presents an important opportunity to implement an ambitious urban development agenda that will make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. Furthermore, the number of international migrants is projected to increase in the next 15 years, possibly adding an additional 15 million people if current trends continue. To ensure the well-being of all migrants and to harness the full development potential of migration, sufficient legal channels for safe and orderly migration need to be created.

In conclusion, the report stresses that the further implementation of the Programme of Action, as well as the achievement of the sustainable development goals, will depend on forging new and stronger partnerships with the active engagement of governments, civil society, the private sector and the United Nations system. Strengthening evidence- and rights-based development strategies, programmes and policies depends on the availability of reliable, robust, accessible and timely population data and analysis. As the world embarks on the post-2015 development agenda, there is an urgent need to strengthen the evidence base in order to monitor progress, hold governments accountable and foster sustainable development.

The second report of the Secretary-General addresses the monitoring of population programmes, focusing on integrating population issues into sustainable development, including in the post-2015 development agenda (E/CN.9/2015/4) and highlights the experiences of Member States in addressing population issues that are central to defining and implementing a post-2015 vision for sustainable development. In particular, the report focuses on mobility and urbanization of populations; the time-bound opportunity to enable demographic dividends; the centrality of sexual and reproductive health and rights for sustainable development; and the potential for reaping returns on population data.

The third report of the Secretary-General addresses the flow of financial resources for assisting in the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (E/CN.9/2015/5). Despite modest increases in donor assistance, current funding levels are below the amounts necessary to fully implement the Programme of Action. As the international community charts a course for the post-2015 era, population dynamics and reproductive health are central to sustainable development and must be an integral part of development planning and poverty reduction strategies. In the report, the Secretary-General points out that the success of the post-2015 development agenda will require increased efforts to mobilize the financial resources necessary to address the unfinished work of the International Conference on Population and Development.

The Commission also reviewed the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population in 2014: Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs" (E/CN.9/2015/6), and took note of the draft programme of work of the Division for the biennium 2016-2017 (E/CN.9/2015/CRP.1). The report of the Secretary-General on programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population in 2014 covers the activities of the Population Division in the areas of fertility and mortality analysis, population policies and international migration. It also discusses the preparation of the world population estimates and projections and the work conducted on the links between population and development. It covers the Division's substantive servicing of intergovernmental bodies, the preparation of parliamentary documentation and

technical publications, the organization of expert group meetings, dissemination of results and capacity-development and technical cooperation. The objective of the subprogramme on population is to strengthen the international community's capacity to effectively address current and emerging population issues and to integrate the population dimension into the international development agenda. The Commission on Population and Development provides the subprogramme with intergovernmental guidance.

The Commission heard a keynote address on the theme "Population dynamics and sustainable development" delivered by Tim Dyson, Professor of Population Studies in the Department of International Development at the London School of Economics. The Commission also heard a keynote address on the theme "Reproductive health, gender and sustainable development" by Suzana Cavenaghi, Professor, National School of Statistical Science, Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics. The session was moderated by Lakshmi Puri, Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations and Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), who also gave introductory remarks on the importance of sexual and reproductive health and rights in the context of sustainable development.

The Commission also held an interactive panel discussion on the theme "Integrating population issues into sustainable development", moderated by Pamela Falk, United Nations Resident Correspondent and Foreign Affairs Analyst, CBS News Television and Radio. The following panellists participated in the discussion: Lori Hunter, Professor, Sociology and Environment and Society Program, University of Colorado at Boulder; Jacob R. S. Malungo, Professor of Demography, University of Zambia; Mark Montgomery, Senior Associate, Population Council and Professor, Stony Brook University; and Gita Sen, Professor of Public Health, Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore.

The Commission heard a statement by the Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council on the contribution of population and development issues to the theme of the annual ministerial review in 2015. The Vice-President noted that population issues were directly relevant to the current year's discussions in the high-level segment of the Council, including the high-level political forum. He urged delegations to take into account in their deliberations the conclusions of the integration segment of the Council on employment and decent work for all.

The Commission decided that the theme of its forty-ninth session, to be held in 2016, would be "Strengthening the demographic evidence base for the post-2015 development agenda" and that the theme for the fiftieth session, to be held in 2017, would be decided in 2016 to align better with the theme of the Economic and Social Council for 2017 and topics emanating from the post-2015 development agenda, to be decided in the fall of 2015.

The Commission also decided to review its methods of work during the forty-ninth session in 2016 and asked the Secretariat, in consultation with Member States and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), to draft a note for consideration by the Commission on ways and means to further enhance the impact of the work of the Commission and its contribution to the Economic and Social Council.

The Commission approved the provisional agenda for its forty-ninth session and adopted the report on its forty-eighth session.

[8 May 2015]

Contents

Chapter		*Page*
I.	Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention	7
	A. Draft decisions	7
	B. Matters brought to the attention of the Council	9
II.	Actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development	14
III.	General debate on national experience in population matters: realizing the future we want — integrating population issues into sustainable development, including in the post-2015 development agenda	16
IV.	General debate on the contribution of population and development issues to the theme of the annual ministerial review in 2015	18
V.	Programme implementation and future programme of work of the Secretariat in the field of population	19
VI.	Provisional agenda for the forty-ninth session of the Commission	20
VII.	Adoption of the report of the Commission on its forty-eighth session	21
VIII.	Organization of the session	22
	A. Opening and duration of the session	22
	B. Attendance	22
	C. Election of officers	22
	D. Report of the Bureau of the Commission on its intersessional meetings	23
	E. Agenda	23
	F. Documentation	23

Chapter I

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

A. Draft decisions

1. The Commission recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decisions:

Report of the Commission on Population and Development on its forty-eighth session and provisional agenda for its forty-ninth session*

The Economic and Social Council

(a) Takes note of the report of the Commission on Population and Development on its forty-eighth session;[1]

(b) Approves the provisional agenda for the forty-ninth session of the Commission as set out below:

Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers.[2]
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

Documentation

Provisional agenda for the forty-ninth session of the Commission

Note by the Secretariat on the organization of the work of the session

Report of the Bureau of the Commission on Population and Development on its intersessional meetings

3. Actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on strengthening the demographic evidence base for the post-2015 development agenda

Report of the Secretary-General on the monitoring of population programmes, focusing on strengthening the demographic evidence base for the post-2015 development agenda

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* For the discussion, see chap. VII.

[1] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2015, Supplement No. 5* (E/2015/25).

[2] In accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2005/213, the Commission, immediately following the close of its forty-eighth session, held the first meeting of its forty-ninth session for the sole purpose of electing the new Chair and other members of the Bureau, in accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council.

Report of the Secretary-General on the flow of financial resources for assisting in the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development

4. General debate on national experience in population matters: "Strengthening the demographic evidence base for the post-2015 development agenda".

5. General debate on the contribution of population and development issues to the Economic and Social Council theme in 2016 on "Implementing the post-2015 development agenda: moving from commitments to results".

6. Programme implementation and future programme of work of the Secretariat in the field of population.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on world demographic trends

Report of the Secretary-General on programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population in 2015: Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Note by the Secretary-General on the proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019: subprogramme 5, Population, of programme 7, Economic and social affairs

7. Review of the functioning of the methods of work of the Commission.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on the methods of work of the Commission on Population and Development

8. Provisional agenda for the fiftieth session of the Commission.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat containing the provisional agenda for the fiftieth session of the Commission

9. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its forty-ninth session.

Future organization and methods of work of the Commission on Population and Development

The Economic and Social Council, taking note of Commission on Population and Development decisions 2004/2 and 2005/2 and resolution 2006/1 on the methods of work of the Commission and recalling General Assembly resolution 68/1 of 20 September 2013 entitled "Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 61/16 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council", in which the Assembly called, inter alia, for the harmonization and coordination of the agendas and work programmes of the functional commissions, decides:

(a) That at its forty-ninth session, in 2016, the Commission on Population and Development shall review the functioning of its methods of work, with a view to further enhancing the impact of the work of the Commission and its contribution to the Economic and Social Council;

(b) To request the Secretariat, in consultation with Member States and the United Nations Population Fund, to prepare a note for consideration by the Commission at its forty-ninth session on ways and means to achieve the above-mentioned objectives.

B. Matters brought to the attention of the Council

2. The following decisions adopted by the Commission, as well as the Chair's summary of the discussions on the proposed outcome document, are brought to the attention of the Council:

Decision 2015/101
Special themes for the Commission on Population and Development in 2016 and 2017

The Commission on Population and Development, recalling Economic and Social Council decision 2015/203 on the themes for the 2015 and 2016 sessions of the Council, in particular the theme for the 2016 session, "Implementing the post-2015 development agenda: moving from commitments to results", decides:

(a) That the special theme for its forty-ninth session in 2016 shall be "Strengthening the demographic evidence base for the post-2015 development agenda";

(b) To postpone the decision on the special theme for its fiftieth session, in 2017, until its forty-ninth session pending the decision of the Council on its annual theme for 2017.

Decision 2015/102
Documents considered by the Commission on Population and Development at its forty-eighth session**

The Commission on Population and Development takes note of the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General entitled "Programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population in 2014: Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs";[3]

(b) Note by the Secretariat on the draft programme of work of the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs for the biennium 2016-2017.[4]

** For the discussion, see chap. V.

[3] E/CN.9/2015/6.

[4] E/CN.9/2015/CRP.1.

Chair's summary of the discussions on the proposed outcome document on integrating population issues into sustainable development, including the post-2015 development agenda

Delegations at the forty-eighth session of the Commission on Population and Development undertook extensive negotiations on a wide range of issues related to the special theme of the Commission, namely, integrating population issues into sustainable development, including in the post-2015 development agenda. The negotiations were carried out on the basis of a draft resolution which was released by the Chair on 17 March 2015. Negotiations on the document started on Tuesday, 7 April, and concluded on Friday, 17 April, the last day of the session. In order to foster a convergence of views, the facilitator produced, throughout the discussions, successive compromise texts which served as the basis for further negotiations. The negotiations were carried out in full transparency and their timing and format allowed all interested delegations to participate. Delegations were informed that, failing to achieve a negotiated result, the Chair would submit a Chair's text for agreement. The negotiations produced very broad areas of agreement but also revealed persistent divergences on a small number of contentious issues, as illustrated below. As a consequence, the Chair presented a compromise text intended to bridge the remaining gaps. Given the statement by one regional group that that text was not acceptable, the Chair's text was consequently withdrawn. The Commission then decided that the Chair would submit a summary of the discussion on the draft resolution to be included in the report of the Commission to the Economic and Social Council. At the next session, reflection on the methods of work would offer an opportunity to examine ways to avoid the repetition of such stalemates, in order to improve the efficiency of the work of the Commission.

Through the discussions, there was broad agreement that the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development was essential for the unfinished work of completing the Millennium Development Goals and of fundamental importance to a post-2015 development agenda centred on people and the planet. Delegations shared many very similar perspectives on matters related to population and sustainable development and reached full agreement on many priority areas for advancing the Programme of Action. It was well recognized that people were at the centre of sustainable development and that millions of people, especially women and children, had been left behind in the unfinished work of the Millennium Development Goals, and that the vision of the post-2015 development agenda was to strive for a world that was just, equitable and inclusive. In addition, many countries stressed the importance of respecting, protecting and promoting human rights, particularly the human rights of women and girls, which was seen as essential for sustained individual well-being, inclusive economic growth, the reduction of inequalities and the achievement of the post-2015 development agenda. Similarly, many countries stressed that gender equality and the empowerment of women could not be achieved without promoting and protecting the rights of women to enjoy all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including their reproductive rights, and that sustainable development and the goals of the post-2015 development agenda could not be fully achieved without the participation of all women and girls as agents and drivers of change.

During the negotiations, many delegations pointed to the existing body of declarations that provided the background and framework for decision-making on

the current thematic topic. These included: the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the obligations of States parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, as well as the outcomes of relevant United Nations high-level meetings, conferences and summits, including the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the 2005 World Summit Outcome, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the five-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the World Programme of Action for Youth, and the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on youth: dialogue and mutual understanding, the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, the Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: Intensifying Our Efforts to Eliminate HIV and AIDS, and the Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases, as well as the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled "The future we want", the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities: "The way forward: a disability-inclusive development agenda towards 2015 and beyond", and the Declaration of the 2013 High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development. One area of disagreement, however, was the reference to outcomes of the regional conferences for the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development.

During the proceedings, delegations acknowledged that demographic trends were posing challenges as well as providing opportunities for the achievement of the post-2015 development agenda. Countries experiencing continued rapid population growth were confronted with additional demand when trying to address poverty reduction, deliver basic services and ensure that no one was left behind. Many of those countries were among the poorest in the world, which, in any case, would be struggling to implement the new development agenda. At the same time, young people in all countries were a major resource for development and a potential catalyst for social change, economic development and technological innovation. Greater investments in young people in order to equip them with the skills they needed, as well as to provide them with opportunities to participate in all levels of decision-making, were essential for further economic and social development. In addition, fertility declines produced shifts in a population's age structure, producing a situation whereby a temporarily greater proportion of the population was in the prime working-ages. Under the right economic environment, that demographic dividend could temporarily accelerate per capita economic growth.

Delegations also recognized that demographic challenges were not only related to population increase. Countries that had reached population stability, or in some cases were experiencing population decline, were increasingly confronted

with the needs and concerns of older people. It was noted that between 2015 and 2030 the increase in the number of older people would be greatest and most rapid in the developing world. In addition, non-communicable diseases accounted for an increasing share of the overall disease burden. The global burden and threat of non-communicable diseases undermined social and economic development throughout the world, threatening development. Delegations agreed, but also noted the importance of continuing to scale up the efforts in the fight against communicable diseases, in particular HIV/AIDS.

The issue of sexual and reproductive health and rights was again one of the most contentious in the Commission on Population and Development, although the importance of access to reproductive health, as well as of reproductive rights, was broadly recognized. For a number of countries, sexual and reproductive health and rights were key to achieve the aims of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, as they were essential for the full realization of all human rights, as well as for ending discrimination and eliminating harmful practices. In line with this, it was also important to promote comprehensive sexuality education. Other countries, however, did not consider sexual and reproductive health and rights an internationally agreed concept. They stressed that they could not accept a resolution that ran counter to their national laws, and reiterated the importance of including references to national sovereignty. They also stressed that sexuality education and related matters should be considered within the national context, including cultural values and religious beliefs.

Issues relating to the concept of family and the role of families remained another area of disagreement.

The need to put an end to child and forced marriage was broadly endorsed. However, some delegations voiced a concern about the lack of an agreed definition of early marriage. Others pointed to already agreed resolutions referring clearly to child, early and forced marriage.

The Commission also discussed the importance of strengthening policies to make cities and human settlements inclusive, affordable, safe, accessible, resilient and sustainable and called for proactive participatory planning to harness the potential benefits of high population density in urban areas, notably through supporting infrastructure development, fostering innovation and utilizing more energy-efficient technologies in transportation and housing.

The important and complex relationship between migration, development and population issues was also brought forward. The need to address the challenges and opportunities of migration was recognized, through international, regional or bilateral cooperation and dialogue and through a comprehensive and balanced approach that recognized the roles and responsibilities of countries of origin, transit and destination in promoting and protecting the human rights of all migrants and avoiding approaches that might aggravate their vulnerability.

There was a clear link between population, development levels and consumption patterns. There was broad agreement in the Commission that reducing and eliminating unsustainable patterns of production and consumption and promoting appropriate policies, including population-related policies that respected human rights, were necessary in order to meet the needs of the current generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Many countries emphasized that population and development issues were interlinked with sustainable development at the subnational, national and international levels, requiring a multi-stakeholder and international approach. They also stressed the importance of integrating population dynamics into development planning and acknowledged the need to strengthen statistical systems in order to monitor better the progress towards the implementation of the Programme of Action, the key actions for its further implementation, and the post-2015 development agenda at the regional, national and local levels.

Delegations recognized that the Programme of Action required the mobilization of new and additional resources at the national and international levels, as well as new and additional resources for developing countries from all available funding mechanisms, including multilateral, bilateral and private sources, and that Governments were not expected to meet the goals and objectives of the Programme of Action single-handedly.

Delegations also expressed support for the efforts of the United Nations Population Fund to continue to assist countries to achieve the full implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and for the Secretary-General to continue his substantive work on population issues, including on the interactions between population dynamics, inequalities and the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development agenda.

Chapter II

Actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development

3. The Commission held a general discussion on item 3 of its agenda, "Actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development", at its 2nd and 3rd meetings, on 13 April 2015. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on integrating population issues into sustainable development, including in the post-2015 development agenda (E/CN.9/2015/3);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the monitoring of population programmes, focusing on integrating population issues into sustainable development, including in the post-2015 development agenda (E/CN.9/2015/4);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the flow of financial resources for assisting in the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (E/CN.9/2015/5).

4. At the 2nd meeting, on 13 April, introductory statements were made by the Assistant Director of the Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs; the Director of the Technical Division, United Nations Population Fund; and the Officer-in-Charge of the Population and Development Branch, Technical Division, United Nations Population Fund.

5. At its 2nd and 3rd meetings, on 13 April, the Commission heard statements by the representatives of China and Germany, as well as the observers for Italy and Cambodia and the observer for the International Labour Organization.

Keynote addresses and panel discussions

6. At its 2nd meeting, on 13 April, the Commission heard a keynote statement on the theme "Population dynamics and sustainable development", which was delivered by Tim Dyson, Professor of Population Studies in the Department of International Development at the London School of Economics. The keynote presentation and the ensuing discussion were moderated by the Chair of the forty-eighth session of the Commission, Bénédicte Frankinet. Mr. Dyson gave an overview of the demographic transition and discussed the consequences for development with regard to urban growth, the environment and climate change, the economy, and marriage and gender relations, citing evidence from both developed and developing countries. Following the presentation, the Commission engaged in an interactive discussion in which the representatives of Liberia, Japan and Uganda, as well as the observer for Cuba, participated.

7. At its 4th meeting, on 14 April, the Commission heard a keynote statement on the theme "Reproductive health, gender and sustainable development" by Suzana Cavenaghi, Professor, National School of Statistical Sciences, Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics. The session was moderated by Lakshmi Puri, Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations and Deputy Executive Director of

UN-Women, who also made introductory remarks on the importance of sexual and reproductive health and rights in the context of sustainable development. Ms. Cavenaghi argued for the continuation of the agenda of the International Conference on Population and Development and underscored that it should not be reduced to the subset of topics that would be included in the sustainable development goals and targets. She emphasized the need for the international community to invest in the data revolution, especially in the light of the post-2015 development agenda. Representatives of Brazil, Chad, Nigeria and Zambia and the observer for Cuba participated in the interactive debate following the keynote presentation.

8. At its 5th meeting, on 15 April, the Commission held an interactive panel discussion on the theme "Integrating population issues into sustainable development", moderated by Pamela Falk, United Nations Resident Correspondent and Foreign Affairs Analyst, CBS News Television and Radio. The following panellists participated in the discussion: Lori Hunter, Professor, Sociology and Environment and Society Program, University of Colorado at Boulder; Jacob R. S. Malungo, Professor of Demography, University of Zambia; Mark Montgomery, Senior Associate, Population Council and Professor, Stony Brook University; and Gita Sen, Professor of Public Health, Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore. Panel members engaged in an interactive discussion, in which the representatives of Japan, Uganda, the United States of America and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the observers for Senegal, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Jamaica participated.

Action taken by the Commission

Special themes for the Commission on Population and Development in 2016 and 2017

9. At its 9th meeting, on 17 April, the Commission had before it a draft decision entitled "Special themes for the Commission on Population and Development in 2016 and 2017" (E/CN.9/2015/L.4), submitted by the Chair on the basis of informal consultations.

10. Also at its 9th meeting, the Commission adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 2015/101).

Chapter III

General debate on national experience in population matters: realizing the future we want — integrating population issues into sustainable development, including in the post-2015 development agenda

11. The Commission held a general discussion on item 4 of its agenda, "General debate on national experience in population matters: realizing the future we want — integrating population issues into sustainable development, including in the post-2015 development agenda", at its 3rd to 8th meetings, from 13 to 17 April 2015. It had before it a number of statements submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.9/2015/NGO/1-20).

12. At its 3rd meeting, on 13 April, the Commission heard statements by the representatives of South Africa (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), Ecuador (on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States), Malaysia, Egypt, Belgium, China, Mongolia, Mexico, Brazil, the Netherlands, Denmark and Uruguay, and by the observers for the Niger (on behalf of the Group of African States), Latvia (on behalf of the European Union), Bahrain (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Nauru (on behalf of Micronesia (Federated States of), Samoa and Solomon Islands), Swaziland, Tunisia, Burundi, Honduras, Ghana, Sweden, Indonesia, Myanmar, Finland and Mozambique.

13. At its 4th meeting, on 14 April, the Commission heard statements by the representatives of Bangladesh, the United States, Switzerland, El Salvador and the Russian Federation, and by the observers for Sri Lanka, South Africa, Israel, Cuba, Ukraine, France, Poland, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Malta, Panama and India.

14. At its 5th meeting, on 15 April, the Commission heard statements by the representatives of Nigeria, Uganda, Pakistan and Germany, and by the observers for Paraguay, the Niger, Armenia, Canada, Sierra Leone, Australia and the Philippines.

15. At its 6th meeting, on 15 April, the Commission heard statements by the representatives of Peru, the United Kingdom, Serbia, the Republic of Moldova, Portugal, Zambia, Turkmenistan, Romania, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Gabon and Norway, and by the observers for Ireland, Togo, Jamaica, Nepal, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Colombia, the Sudan, Senegal, Tonga, Thailand, Kenya, Turkey, Maldives, Lebanon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Argentina and Rwanda.

16. At its 7th meeting, on 16 April, the Commission heard statements by the representatives of Japan, Algeria, the Dominican Republic, Benin, Chad, Madagascar and the United Republic of Tanzania, and by the observers for Morocco, Jordan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Papua New Guinea, the Gambia, Burkina Faso, Fiji, Cameroon, Viet Nam, Malawi, Saudi Arabia, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and the Syrian Arab Republic. Statements were made by the observers of the Holy See and the State of Palestine, and by the representatives of Partners in Population and Development, the League of Arab States, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Economic Commission for Africa, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, the International Labour Organization and the World Health Organization.

17. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the representatives of the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council: the Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life Education Fund and the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population.

18. At its 8th meeting, on 17 April, the Commission heard statements by the representatives of the following non-governmental organizations: the Catholic Family and Human Rights Institute, the Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Youth Caucus, the International Planned Parenthood Federation, the People's Movement for Human Rights Learning, the Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women, Action Aid, IPAS, the International Catholic Committee of Nurses and Medical Social Assistants, Amnesty International, Stichting Rutgers WPF, the New Zealand Family Planning Association, the International Planned Parenthood Federation — South Asia Region, the World Youth Alliance, the International Federation on Ageing and the Stakeholder Group on Ageing, the International Women's Health Coalition, the Awaz Centre for Development Services, the Advocates for Youth and the NGO Committee on Migration.

19. Statements in exercise of the right of reply were made by the representatives of Israel, the Syrian Arab Republic and Bahrain and by the observer delegation of the State of Palestine.

Chapter IV

General debate on the contribution of population and development issues to the theme of the annual ministerial review in 2015

20. The Commission considered item 5 of its agenda, "General debate on the contribution of population and development issues to the theme of the annual ministerial review in 2015", at its 6th meeting, on 15 April 2015, and heard an address by the Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council on the contribution of population and development issues to the theme of the annual ministerial review in 2015, "Managing the transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the sustainable development goals: What it will take".

21. Also at the 6th meeting, statements were made by the representative of Mexico and by the observer for the International Organization for Migration.

Chapter V

Programme implementation and future programme of work of the Secretariat in the field of population

22. The Commission held a general discussion on item 6 of its agenda, "Programme implementation and future programme of work of the Secretariat in the field of population", at its 8th meeting, on 17 April 2015. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General entitled "Programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population in 2014: Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs" (E/CN.9/2015/6);

(b) Note by the Secretariat on the draft programme of work of the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs for the biennium 2016-2017 (E/CN.9/2015/CRP.1).

23. At its 8th meeting, on 17 April, the Commission heard an introductory statement by the Director of the Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

24. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the United States, Germany and China as well as by the observers for Italy and Cuba.

Action taken by the Commission

Documents considered by the Commission under agenda item 6

25. At its 9th meeting, on 17 April, on the proposal of the Chair, the Commission took note of a number of documents submitted under agenda item 6 (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 2015/102).

Chapter VI
Provisional agenda for the forty-ninth session of the Commission

26. At its 9th meeting, on 17 April 2015, the Commission had before it the provisional agenda for the forty-ninth session of the Commission (E/CN.9/2015/L.2/Rev.1).

27. At the same meeting, the Commission approved the provisional agenda (see chap. I, sect. A).

Chapter VII

Adoption of the report of the Commission on its forty-eighth session

28. At its 9th meeting, on 17 April 2015, the Commission adopted the draft report on the forty-eighth session of the Commission (E/CN.9/2015/L.3) and authorized the Vice-Chair and Rapporteur, Mesbah Ansari Dogaheh (Islamic Republic of Iran), to finalize it, in consultation with the Secretariat.

Chapter VIII
Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

29. The Commission on Population and Development held its forty-eighth session at United Nations Headquarters on 11 April 2014 and from 13 to 17 April 2015. The Commission held 9 meetings (1st to 9th).

30. At the 2nd meeting, on 13 April 2015, the session was opened by the Chair of the Commission, Bénédicte Frankinet (Belgium), who also made a statement.

31. At the same meeting, the Commission heard statements by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat (both on behalf of the Secretary-General and in his own capacity), the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund, and the Director of the Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

B. Attendance

32. The session was attended by 45 States members of the Commission. Observers for 87 other States Members of the United Nations and 2 non-Member States, representatives of organizations and other entities of the United Nations system and observers for intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations also attended. The list of delegations is available in document E/CN.9/2015/INF/1.

C. Election of officers

33. At its 1st and 2nd meetings, on 11 April 2014 and 13 April 2015, the Commission elected the following officers by acclamation:

Chair:

Bénédicte Frankinet (Belgium)

Vice-Chairs:

Rubén Armando Escalante Hasbún (El Salvador)
Mesbah Ansari Dogaheh (Islamic Republic of Iran)
Lidija Bubanja (Serbia)
Christine Kalamwina (Zambia)

34. At its 2nd meeting, on 13 April, the Commission designated the Vice-Chair, Mesbah Ansari Dogaheh (Islamic Republic of Iran), to serve also as Rapporteur for the session.

35. At the same meeting, the Chair designated the Vice-Chair, Rubén Armando Escalante Hasbún (El Salvador), as Chair of the informal consultations.

D. Report of the Bureau of the Commission on its intersessional meetings

36. At the 2nd meeting, the Chair introduced the report of the Bureau of the Commission on its intersessional meetings (E/CN.9/2015/2).

37. At the same meeting, the Commission took note of the report of the Bureau.

E. Agenda

38. At its 2nd meeting, the Commission adopted the provisional agenda (E/CN.9/2015/1), which read:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development.
4. General debate on national experience in population matters: realizing the future we want — integrating population issues into sustainable development, including in the post-2015 development agenda.
5. General debate on the contribution of population and development issues to the theme of the annual ministerial review in 2015.
6. Programme implementation and future programme of work of the Secretariat in the field of population.
7. Provisional agenda for the forty-ninth session of the Commission.
8. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its forty-eighth session.

39. At the same meeting, the Commission approved the organization of work of the session (E/CN.9/2015/L.1).

F. Documentation

40. The list of documents before the Commission at its forty-eighth session is available from the website of the Population Division (www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/commission/sessions/2015/index.shtml).

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